

Minutes FEEVA GA October 2024

Thursday 24th October 9:00-16:00 CET

**WELCOME to
FEEVA General
Assembly**



Date/time: Thursday, 24th October 8:30-16:00

Place: [Jockey club](#), Lisbon, Portugal

Chair: Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen, President



PROGRAM- FEEVA GA 24th October 2024

8:30	Arrival and registration	
9:00	Opening and Welcome by FEEVA president	<i>Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen</i>
9:05	Welcome and introduction by APMVE president	<i>Inês Leal Reis</i>
9:15	President report	
9:25	Greetings from guests and update activities : MEP Hilde Vautmans (<i>Video message</i>), AAEP (<i>Katie Garrett, David Foley</i>),UEVP (<i>Kenelm Lewis</i>), FVE (<i>Mette Uldahl</i>), EHN	

	(Mark Wentein), FEI (Caterina Termine) IVSA (Felix Metzger)	
10:30	Update Statutes (vote)	
11:00 Coffee break		
FEEVA Working Groups		
11:20	Disease Surveillance WG	<i>Lucjan Witkowski</i>
11:30	PPE WG	<i>Lucy Grieve</i>
11:40	Medicines WG	<i>Joe Collins</i>
11:50	Horse Welfare WG ➤ Position paper Training and Behaviour of horse welfare in Equestrian sport (Vote)	<i>Anette Graf</i>
12:10	FEEVA activities ➤ Position paper on Equine dentistry (vote)	<i>Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen</i>
12:30	Finances ➤ Rolling statement (2024) ➤ Financial report (2023) ➤ Adoption budget (2025) (Vote) ➤ Auditor report	<i>Andrea Brignolo</i>
Elections		
12:40	FEEVA board elections (Vote)	
12:55 Lunch break		
13:55	Elections outcomes	
14:00	Working with Farriers ➤ Presentation and Discussion	<i>Nuno Bernardes – President of the Farrier Association</i>
14:25	Social Licence to Operate ➤ Presentation and Discussion	<i>Joe Collins</i>
14:50 Coffee break		
15:10	Stop Hyperflexion ➤ Presentation and Discussion	<i>Eva Van Avermaet</i>
15:35	Next year FEEVA GA : AVEF	<i>Vincent Boureau</i>
15:40	Any Other Business - Treating vets at FEI shows (KNMvD)	<i>Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen</i>
16:00	Thank you and goodbye	<i>Incoming Board President</i>

WELCOME

Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen, President of FEEVA, began the meeting by expressing her appreciation to the FEEVA delegates for their attendance. She extended her gratitude to the [Portuguese Equine Veterinary Association](#) (APMVE) for organizing the event and to the [Portuguese Equestrian Society](#) for providing the venue.

She warmly welcomed the distinguished guests: *Katie Garrett and David Foley* (AAEP), *Caterina Termine* (FEI), *Kenelm Lewis* (UEVP), *Mette Uldahl* (FVE), *Mark Wentein* (EHN), *Felix Metzger* (IVSA), and speakers *Eva Van Avermaet and Nuno Bernardes*.

A special thanks was also extended to *MEP Hilde Vautmans* for her kind [video message](#) to the FEEVA delegates and guests.

Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen announced the apologies and proxies received from the following member's associations:

Denmark- apologies

Estonia- apologies

Czech republic- apologies

Norway- apologies

Belgium- apologies and Proxy to Netherlands

The Quorum was certified with 18 country representatives out of 23 country members.

Meeting agenda was adopted.

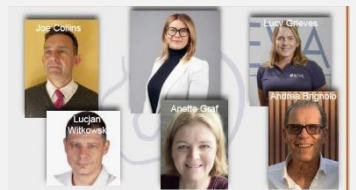
Welcome and introduction by APMVE president [\(Link\)](#)

Inês Leal Reis, APMVE president warmly welcomed all attendees, sharing insights into APMVE's history and ongoing initiatives. She also extended an invitation to the upcoming APMVE Congress, scheduled for October 25-26 at the Lisbon Veterinary Faculty.



President report [\(Link\)](#)

Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen highlighted the board's structure, goals, and future plans, focusing on transparency, improved communication and streamlined operations. She emphasized student involvement and the importance of the stakeholder engagement.



Video message from MEP Hilde Vautmans [\(link\)](#)

Mrs Hilde Vautmans, Member of the European Parliament and Chairwoman of the MEPHorse Group and the European Horse Network, sent her greetings to FEEVA delegates by a video message.



Greetings from AAEP [\(Link\)](#)

Katie Garrett, AAEP president provided an overview of AAEP's key projects, including the Attrition from Equine Practice initiative, the Retention Task Force, the Commission on Equine Veterinary Sustainability, and the Emergency Coverage Subcommittee.



UEVP activities [\(Link\)](#)

Kenelm Lewis, UEVP Treasurer, conveyed greetings from UEVP and discussed the organization's recent actions, including its involvement in working groups and policy matters. He also highlighted recent joint position papers that UEVP has contributed to.



Update FVE activities [\(Link\)](#)

Mette Uldahl, FVE First Vice-President and FEEVA former president,

introduced several FVE EU matters relevant to FEEVA, including topics such as One Health and Sustainability, One Veterinary Community, Veterinary Demography and Rewarding Careers, and Embracing Technology. She highlighted the [VetJoy](#) project and the joint position paper that has been endorsed. Additionally, she discussed the Essential Substances list, the rules on oral medication, and the issues surrounding mutilations and blood collection in Equidae.



EHN activities [\(Link\)](#)

Mark Wenten, Chairman of the European Horse Network (EHN), introduced the history, actions, and objectives of EHN, focusing on the organization's lobbying efforts for the equine sector in Europe. He emphasized EHN's mission to promote the development of the equine sector within the European Union, increase the industry's visibility and impact, and engage in lobbying activities on shared interests in the European political landscape.



Mark also mentioned the upcoming election for a new board in 2025 and EHN's position on future EU legislation, particularly concerning the exclusion of horses from the food chain, as well as issues related to equine housing and transport.

FEI activities [\(Link\)](#)

Caterina Termine, Senior Veterinary Advisor at the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI), conveyed appreciation to FEEVA on behalf of FEI for the invitation to the assembly and the strong partnership between the two organizations. She then shared updates on FEI's recent initiatives, including the NHV conference in Istanbul, preparations for the Olympics and Paralympics, welfare issues addressed at the Sports Forum, and current research projects.



IVSA activities ([Link](#))



Felix Metzger, President of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA), gave an overview of IVSA's structure and recent activities. He highlighted the recent congress in Peru, where the new board was elected, the strategic plan and position papers that were endorsed, and key decisions that were made, including the dissolution of the Equine Network. Metzger also shared updates on upcoming equine projects and future equine-related topics that IVSA will address.

UPDATE STATUTES

FEEVA President outlined the recent work to update the statutes, initiated by the board and reviewed by all members. This revision was designed to reflect FEEVA's evolving structure in recent years and as was approved at the last General Assembly, enabling multiple eligible member associations from the same country to join FEEVA.

Delegates voted for each change proposed by the board or accepted by the board

- **Some Delegates** sought clarification on Change 23 (Art. 12.11) and regarding fee calculations for countries with multiple associations. Some had suggested that the total fee could be divided based on an agreed breakdown among the associations representing equine practitioners from the same country. The board stated that such a proposal could be submitted for consideration and voted on at the next General Assembly.

- **The board** addressed the decision from the last General Assembly, which allowed more than one member association from the same country to join FEEVA. To accommodate this, the board proposed a voting procedure that respects the members' preference for "one vote per country." Under this arrangement, associations from the same country must agree among themselves on how to cast their vote. If no agreement is reached, the country's vote will be deemed void.

- **Some Delegates** commented that the votes do not including any proposals that were suggested by the members and declined by the board.

- **The board** replied that this update was initiated by the board and members are welcome to suggest new changes before the next GA (to be submitted 3 months before the GA)

- **Some Delegates** sought clarification on Change 25 (art12.14), which had been declined by the board and was therefore not up for a vote. They noted that this proposal for change, submitted by members, aimed to address the issue of the President not having a vote unless acting as a delegate for their country. They highlighted concerns that in the event of a tie, decisions could remain unresolved, requiring the board to introduce new proposals until a majority is reached.

- **The board** responded that, in the event of a tie, the President or Chair of the meeting should cast the deciding vote to avoid prolonging discussions that have likely already been extensive.

- **VOTE on update statutes** - Changes no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27 unanimously approved
- Change no. 23 one objection – approved

Link to the updated statutes [HERE](#)

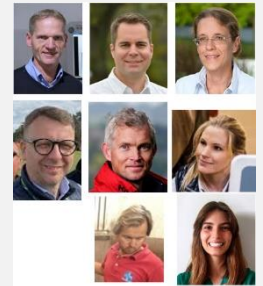
Disease Surveillance Working Group - DSWG ([Link](#))

Lucjan Witkowski, presented the key objectives and activities of the Disease Surveillance Working Group. He highlighted the successful VIII Summit of the Disease Surveillance Network in Deauville on the 5th October 2024, and discussed recent activities. The summit focused on key equine health topics such as advancements in equine disease management, tick-borne encephalitis control in Switzerland, West Nile virus outbreaks in Europe, equine antimicrobial resistance tracking, and more. The summit also covered the Western Equine Encephalitis epizootic in South America and lessons for outbreak prevention.



Prepurchase Examination Working Group (PPE) ([Link](#))

Lucy Grieve presented the members of the Prepurchase Examination (PPE) Working Group and provided an overview of their recent work and ongoing projects. These included collating information on which radiographic views are routinely acquired during PPE across various countries, with a focus on resuming the collection of data on routine PPE radiographic views among member countries. The group also discussed the development of a position statement on PPE radiography of the neck, the inclusion of oral examinations during PPE, and plans to revive the FEEVA PPE Symposium. Additionally, the next FEEVA PPE Symposium will be held alongside the AVEE Congress from 19-21 February 2025 in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.



- **Some Delegates** inquired whether all members of the working group were nominated by the associations and how to replace them in case the association wish to nominate someone else.
- **The board** responded that the working group had not been active for a while, but they are now reviewing the members and will seek confirmation from the associations regarding their representatives. Furthermore, they will issue a call for new members to join the extended group.
- **Some Delegates** requested that the position papers be issued in a consistent format and made easily accessible on the FEEVA website.

Medicines Working Group (MWG) and the Equine Welfare Working Group EWWG ([Link](#))

Joe Collins presented the renewed group of 2024 and highlighted the key issues they are currently addressing. These include the Essential Substances List with added clinical benefits, the EMA's advice to the European Commission, and the EC Delegated Act regarding antimicrobials for human use. The group is also handling member queries about specific treatments for competition horses. Additionally, they are working on a joint position paper with the EWWG on chronic therapies in competition horses, aiming to outline the relevant principles, treatment implications, and address specific medicinal treatments.



Anette Graf shared the recent work of the EWWG, including the group's meeting in Cluj in March 2024. Key areas of focus were working equidae, the donkey skin trade, SLO, and donkey welfare issues in Europe. The group is also involved with EUnetHorse and provided a short report on the welfare situation in each FEEVA member country. Key topics include participation in the EFSA project, finalizing the position paper on training and behavior, and investigating modern reproductive techniques such as OPU/ICSI.

- **VOTE on position paper Training and Behavior - unanimously endorsed ([link](#))**

FEEVA activities [\(Link\)](#)

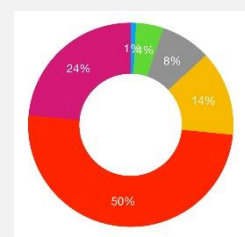
Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen provided an overview of FEEVA's current activities, highlighting several key initiatives and engagements. These included participation in various meetings, such as those with FVE, UEVP, and EHN, as well as both in-person and online board meetings. She emphasized FEEVA's representation at congresses, symposiums, and events in the European Parliament.

Heidi also discussed FEEVA's ongoing work on the transport position paper, its involvement in various EU projects and initiatives, and provided an update on the total number of FEEVA members, noting the interest expressed by new members in joining the organization. Lastly, she presented FEEVA's dentistry position paper and requested the delegates to cast their votes on the matter.

➤ **VOTE on position paper Equine Dentistry - unanimously endorsed [\(Link\)](#)**

Finances [\(Link\)](#)

Andrea Brignolo, FEEVA's treasurer, presented the financials of FEEVA, providing an overview of the organization's financial status:



1. Financial report (2023); total expenses: Bank expenses, Accounting, Board meetings, other meeting expenses (WGs, UEVP, EHN, EU Parliament), FVE Secretariat services, membership (UEVP,EHN). Total Income €37,457.20 Total expenditure : €37,179.95
The auditor's report was presented, recommending that the treasurer and the board had properly discharged their responsibilities for the year 2023.

➤ **VOTE for approval accounts & discharge- Approved**

2. Rolling statement (By 20th Oct 2024); Income: € 34,536.00 Expenditures: € 24,724. Account balance € 40,024
3. Budget (2025); Expenditure: € 34,300, Income: € 34,536

- **Some delegates** inquired about the increase in the meetings' budget for 2025, particularly for UEVP, EHN, and other organizations, as well as the rise in membership fees for UEVP and EHN.
- **The board** replied that the increase in the meetings budget for 2025 is due to FEEVA's growing activity and the need for greater representation at various meetings, such as those in the EU Parliament. The new budget will accommodate this. Regarding the fee increases for UEVP and EHN, the UEVP membership fee is calculated based on the number of FEEVA members, which has increased.

➤ **VOTE- the budget was adopted by the GA- approved with one abstention**

FEEVA board elections

Candidates' self-presentations and vote for the Election of one New Board Member

The three candidates briefly introduced themselves to the delegates, followed by a vote.

➤ **VOTE- new candidate elected – Michael Koehler GEVA (DE)**

Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen congratulated the newly elected board member and extended her best wishes for a productive and fulfilling term as members of the FEEVA board.

➤ **Elected board decision:**

- **Joe Collins will be the new FEEVA president.**
- **Andrea Brignolo will continue as treasurer.**

Working with Farriers ([Link](#))

Dr Nuno Bernardes, President of the Portuguese Farrier association, addressed the collaboration between veterinarians and farriers, emphasizing the importance of resolving conflicts through better communication and cooperation. He highlighted that strong collaboration between vets and farriers is essential for improving the diagnosis and treatment of horses. Tools for enhancing communication, such as strengthening the connection between observation, feelings, needs, and requests, were also discussed.



Different comments were from the delegates and board:

- There is currently no EU title for farriers, and the spirit of the EFFA is to promote the welfare and standardization of education and skills in horse showing across Europe.
- The delegates inquired whether the focus was also on barefoot horses or only on farriery, and whether the scope of farrier should be broadened.
- The question of whether to shoe or not to shoe was raised, with many delegates noting the growing presence of barefoot horses.
- The situation in Sweden, where anyone can call themselves a farrier, but the government is working on implementing a more structured approach with a new licensing category.
- Further comments suggested that a joint position paper on the topic should be written.
- Shared experience- the best way to collaborate with farriers is to clearly identify the horse's problem and the desired outcome, then ask the farrier for their expertise on the best approach.

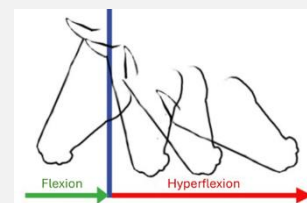
Social Licence to Operate ([Link](#))

Joe Collins discussed the importance of Social Licence to Operate (SLO) in equestrian activities, highlighting its role as an unwritten contract with society based on animal welfare standards. He warned of the risks posed by declining public support, as seen in the banning of greyhound and jump racing due to welfare concerns. A survey showed 60% of the public advocate for improved welfare in equestrian sports. He emphasized that maintaining SLO requires collective responsibility, proactive communication, and consistent welfare practices across the industry.



Stop Hyperflexion ([Link](#))

Dr Eva Van Avermaet, founder of the Collectif Pour les Chevaux, presented on the topic of hyperflexion, explaining its definition and the rules surrounding it according to the FEI Welfare Subcommittee. She outlined what constitutes excessive hyperflexion, specifically highlighting excessive LDR, and provided examples to clarify what is considered acceptable versus abusive practices. Eva also discussed the health and welfare implications of hyperflexion abuse, referencing a recently published meta-analysis on the topic. She noted the progress made in improving rider and trainer awareness, emphasizing the positive effects of debriefing sessions in addressing and reducing hyperflexion-related issues. Additionally, she shared insights from Collectif Pour les Chevaux and AHWS on the topic.



Next year GA ([Link](#))

Vincent Boureau from AVEF announced, with the agreement of the Board, that the next FEEVA General Assembly will be held in Lyon, France, on 22nd October 2025, in conjunction with the AVEF annual congress.



Any Other Business

- *Some Delegates* expressed a desire to address the issue of vet clinics at FEI shows. In some international competitions, certain events allow vets to set up clinics and sell services for significant fees, and this topic should be open for discussion.
- *Delegates* emphasized the importance of prioritizing the discussion of transport regulations, noting that the changes in the draft transportation regulation need to be addressed.

Thank you and goodbye

Joe Collins, as the new FEEVA president, thanked all participants, delegates, guests, and the secretariat. He especially thanked **Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen**, the outgoing president, for her enormous contribution to the association, having served on the board for over five years and as president for a year and a half. He expressed gratitude for her dedication and assured that FEEVA will continue to collaborate with her and seek her expertise moving forward.



The meeting was then closed, with Joe wishing everyone a pleasant stay in Portugal.

Annex 1 GA and Board decisions

GA decisions:

- VOTE on update statutes - Changes no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27 unanimously approved
 - Change no. 23 one objection – approved
- VOTE on position paper Training and Behavior - unanimously endorsed
- VOTE on position paper Equine Dentistry - unanimously endorsed
- VOTE for approval accounts & discharge- Approved

- VOTE- the budget was adopted by the GA- approved with one abstention
- VOTE- new candidate elected – Michael Koehler GEVA (DE)

Elected board decision:

- **Joe Collins will be the new FEEVA president**
- **Andrea Brignolo will continue as treasurer**

Annex 2- List of participants

Delegate name	Country	Association
Constanze Zach	Austria	VOP
Christine Hinterhofer	Austria	VOP
Tiina Eskonen	Finland	FAVP
Katja Hautala	Finland	FAVP
Boureau Vincent	France	AVEF
Michael Koehler	Germany	GPM – GEVA
Istvan soos	Hungary	HAEP
Liz O'lynn	Irland	Veterinary Ireland
Evija Liepina	Latvia	LEVA
Dana Laizane	Latvia	LEVA
Thibault Frippiat	Netherlands	KNMVD (Equine section)
Ines Leal Reis	Portugal	AMPVE
Constança Moreira da Fonseca	Portugal	AMPVE
Mirela A. Tripon	Romania	AVER
Miguel C Llorca	Spain	AVEE
Annika Källse	Sweden	SVA
Nika Brkljaca Bottegaro	Croatia	HVK
Zita Makra	Hungary	HAEP
Franziska Remy-Wohlfender	Switzerland	SVPM
Giorgio Strozzi	Italia	SIVE
Marcus Swail	Irland	IEVA
FEEVA Board		
Heidi Kellokoski-Kiiskinen	Board	FEEVA
Joe Collins	Board	FEEVA
Lucjan Witkowski	Board	FEEVA
Anette Graf	Board	FEEVA
Andrea Brignolo	Board	FEEVA
Lucy Grieve	Board	FEEVA
Catarina Santiago	Secretary	FEEVA
Yael Dotan	Secretary	FEEVA
GUESTS		

Caterina Termine	FEI	FEI
Kenelm Lewis	UEVP	UEVP
Mette Uldahl	FVE	FVE
Mark Wentein	EHN	EHN
Felix Metzger	IVSA	IVSA
David Foley	AAEP	AAEP
Katie Garrett	AAEP	AAEP
Eva Van Avermaet	Collectif Pour les Chevaux	Guest speaker
Nuno Bernardes	Portuguese Farrier's Association	Guest speaker